

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) A method of finding one or more new active chemical compounds for crop protection, ~~in particular by identifying chemical compounds which~~ cause the activation or inhibition of a polypeptide ~~which is encoded by a nucleic acid according to Claim 1 with the bioactivity of an ultraspiracle protein~~, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a host cell comprising a nucleic acid ~~according to Claim 1~~ encoding a polypeptide with the bioactivity of an ultraspiracle protein, which nucleic acid includes a sequence selected from the group consisting of
 - (i) the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1,
 - (ii) sequences which have at least 85% identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 over a length of at least 600 consecutive nucleotides,
 - (iii) sequences which, owing to the degeneracy of the genetic code, encode the same amino acid sequence as the sequences defined under (i) and (ii), and
 - (iv) parts of the sequences as defined under (i), (ii) and (iii) which encode polypeptides which have essentially the same bioactivity as a polypeptide with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- (b) culturing the host cell in the presence of a chemical compound or a mixture of chemicals compounds, and
- (c) detecting which chemical compound or mixture of chemical compounds results in the activation or inhibition of the polypeptide ~~or receptor~~.

Claims 16-28 (Cancelled).

Claim 29 (New) A method of finding one or more active chemical compounds for crop protection by identifying chemical compounds which cause the activation or inhibition of a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid with the bioactivity of an ultraspiracle protein, comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a host cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide with the bioactivity of an ultraspiracle protein, wherein said nucleic acid includes the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and/or wherein said polypeptide includes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2,
- (b) culturing the host cell in the presence of a chemical compound or a mixture of chemical compounds, and
- (c) detecting which chemical compound or mixture of chemical compounds results in the activation or inhibition of the polypeptide.